GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3125
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2004
BAN ON WHITE ASBESTOS
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) have been campaigning for a total ban on white asbestos in the country claiming that it causes lung cancer;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any scientific study to verify the above claim of NGOs; and

(d) if so, the result thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) & (b) : Yes, Sir. The Government has received representations from a few Non-Governmental Organisations for a total ban on white asbestos in the country. However, as no scientific study establishing that the use of white asbestos causing lung cancer is available, it is not considered as desirable to ban the use of white asbestos.

(c): No, Sir.

(d) : Does not arise.